Supply of gas to Ratnagiri Gas and Power Company Pvt. Ltd.

1571. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in touch with the Government of Oman gas supply for Ratnagiri Gas and Power Company Pvt. Ltd. (RGPPL) the erstwhile Dabhol Power Company, Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government are also making efforts for the long term gas supply for RGPPL with other countries also; and

(c) if so, what are those countries and under what terms and conditions, and their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Besides Oman, efforts have been made to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. (RGPPL) from Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. No gas volumes have been contracted for the project so far.

GAIL's investments in Orissa

1572. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL proposes to invest Rs. 15,000 crores in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a multi-disciplinary task force has been set up for the purpose to facilitate implementation of each of the projects on a priority basis in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) GAIL is working on potential investment in various projects in Orissa State.

These include laying of a pipeline from Kakinada to Haldia, a portion of which would fall in Orissa State, setting up an above ground coal gasification plant and studying the feasibility of setting up of a petrochemical complex.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Expansion of LPG coverage in A.P.

1573. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 57 per cent of population in A.P. has been covered by domestic LPG;

(b) if so, what efforts the public sector oil marketing companies are making to increase the percentage of population covered in A.P. from 56 per cent to 75 per cent at the end of this year; and

(c) what is the impact of Government's advice to public sector oil marketing companies to concentrate their expansion plan in semi-urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 01.02.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 602 LPG distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 83.37 lakhs LPG customers covering 57.5% population of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply domestic LPG through their distribution network and they have the freedom to set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations. Government has advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas in the country. OMCs have taken steps in introducing 5 kg. cylinders and setting up community kitchens with a view to covering the uncovered rural areas. It is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships.

Re-negotiation of LNG price with Iran

1574. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran wants to re-negotiate the LNG price with India at current market conditions;